

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes
March 18, 2009

Date: March 18, 2009

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Member(s) Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

Philip Englehardt

Patti Dubay

George Heron

Lyle LeCronier

Sara Marks

Doug Rise (arrived 6:45p)

Barb Wishowski

Member(s) Excused:

Joyce Gavord

Marybeth Laisure

Bill Palmer

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Kim Langley, Program Associate, BFI

Margaret LaShore, SNAP-Ed Educator, Reporting & Technology

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

Others Excused:

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Howard Wetters, Bay County Extension director, invited all present to begin dinner at 5:15 p.m. and welcomed Council members to tonight's meeting which will focus on reviewing current MSU Extension Bay County programming efforts for year 2008-2009 and their ideas on new programming for year 2009-2010. A PowerPoint slide show was presented by Mr. Wetters, outlining the history of MSU Extension, its mission statement, current function, outreach, funding levels, and local educational responsibilities. A recap of our local strategic priorities from the 2006 issues identification process and how they have guided MSU Extension Bay County programming efforts. During dinner and the presentation, some discussion centered around new programming ideas like financial management and alternative funding for additional staffing like AmeriCorps.

Dr. Philip Engelhardt, secretary, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., as dinner was still underway. The minutes of the January 21, 2009, meeting were approved. There were no new items added to the agenda.

Old Business:

A revised MSU Extension Bay County programming presentation schedule to the Extension Council for 2009 was handed out at the meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Wetters reported on pending state budget cuts by the governor to MSU, MSU Extension, and the MSU's Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station, and MSU's request to the state to be treated budgetarily as other universities. Mr. Wetters asked Council to consider sending their individual support for MSU Extension Bay County to their local legislatures. MSU Extension Bay County would provide mailing addresses. Mr. George Heron suggested that a simple, well drafted boilerplate letter, highlighting our local efforts and value to the community would help tell the MSU Extension Bay County story. Mr. Lyle LeCronier suggested putting on another community officials luncheon, like the one Extension Council and MSUE Bay once did to demonstrate what a meal looks like for families on food stamps. Other ideas were discussed on how the Extension Council could bring a positive focus to the community in support of MSU Extension Bay County. It was also suggested that, in addition to this Extension Council, other sponsored groups, like 4-H and Breastfeeding Club members for example, could send similar letters of support. Mr. Wetters stated that he and the MSU Extension Bay County staff could make contacts with its programming collaborators to make additional contacts.

It was moved, supported, and carried to have MSU Extension Bay County draft a support letter on behalf of Extension Council to send to the Bay County Board of Commissioners and other local legislators.

Ms. Patti Dubay stated that this would also be a good project for the 4-H youth. Ms. Dubay said she would get with Jodi Schulz to discuss what a letter from the 4-H youth would look like.

Mr. Wetters thanked Extension Council for its continued support, which is very appreciated.

Ms. Kim Langley, program associate under the Breast Feeding Initiative, gave a presentation on the breastfeeding friendly diaper bag project that she is spearheading. Ms. Langley works cooperatively with the Bay County Breastfeeding Coalition to find ways to promote breastfeeding in our community. Bay Regional Medical Center was approached to offer an alternative to the commercial diaper bags they offered new moms, which were provided by formula companies. For over a year and a half, Ms. Langley has coordinated MSU Extension staff, the Breastfeeding Coalition, the Breastfeeding Club, and many volunteers from around the community to sew diaper bags made out of pants/jeans. The breastfeeding

friendly diaper bags have been offered to new moms at Bay Med since the first of the year. Most of the materials to construct the bags and fill them with breastfeeding products, like pads and wipes, are donated also. Ms. Langley passed a 'new mom ready' bag around for Council to see. There is a patch with support contact and nutrition information on each bag, so a new mom has info at her finger tips to help her succeed in her efforts. In addition to the boost for new moms and the efforts of the Breastfeeding Coalition in promoting breastfeeding in our community, MSU Extension Bay County has been able to use the volunteer time toward match funding under its nutrition education grant program, SNAP-Ed, which enhances our own programing efforts in the community.

After a small break, several new ideas were identified and voted on by Extension Council to aid MSU Extension Bay County's programming efforts in 2009-2010. Priorities were ranked by programing ideas discussed, under four main MSU Extension Bay County program areas. The results are as follows:

Program Area	Program Idea	(P)artnering and (F)unding Possibilities Discussed	Rank			
			1	2	3	4
4-H	Youth mentoring	(F) Additional staffing from AmeriCorps	X			
	Personal financial management for youth			X		
ANR	Community food discussion/farm enterprise	(P) MSU Extension Public Deliberation Initiative - Issue book, trained monitors (P) Local service provider collaboration (P) Create local task force (P) MSU Extension FCS/SNAP-Ed staff	X			
	Biofuels development	(P) MSU Extension Comm & Ec Dev		X		
	Lower cost crop production systems				X	
Community & Economic Development	Local food system development	(P) Create local task force for community gardens	X			
	Wind energy/biofuels development	(P) Create local task force (P) MSU Extension ANR staff		X		
	Combining municipal services				X	
	Community for a Lifetime: Phase II - marketing to local entities					X

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FCS - Family Consumer Sciences	Community food discussion	(P) MSU Extension Public Deliberation Initiative - Issue book, trained monitors (P) Local service provider collaboration (P) Create local task force (P) MSU Extension ANR staff	X			
	Personal financial management for adults/families	(F) new FCS Extension educator task		X		
	Parenting education				X	

Mr. Wetters asked if Council would except a limited program area staff report for the period covering the last 2 months due to the late hour. With their acceptance, Ms. Ann Arnold stated that all was going well under Family Consumer Sciences. Mr. Wetters noted that 4-H, ANR, and other program areas are also doing well. Ms. Jan Rise, Master Gardener volunteer program coordinator, reported that the Master Gardener program is utilizing the MSU portal, the state Master Gardener, and Bay County's Web sites to increase her communication abilities with the Master Gardener volunteers. She is looking at opening up volunteer opportunities by offering a information table at the Downtown Bay City Farmers Market this year, whereby visitors could learn about a variety of horticulture topics like potting plants, best practices, and other hot topics. Ms. Rise, along with the Bay Area Master Gardener Association have identified to try to move the overall local program to a 'leaders not weeders' concept. The emphasis would be to guide the volunteer base to learn to facilitate and develop horticulture education projects over digging in the dirt projects in the community. Community garden possibilities was also discussed.

The next meeting will be held on May 20. Dr. Engelhardt adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the January 21, 2009, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to publicly endorse the programming efforts of MSU Extension Bay County with a letter to Bay County.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

FOLLOW UP NEEDED

- Identify which legislators and/or local officials to send letter of support.
- Discuss other methods and identify target groups to bring a positive focus on impacts of MSU Extension Bay County programming efforts in the community.
- Review Plan of Work results and discuss new opportunities for year 2009-2010.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz